

1918

Service in France

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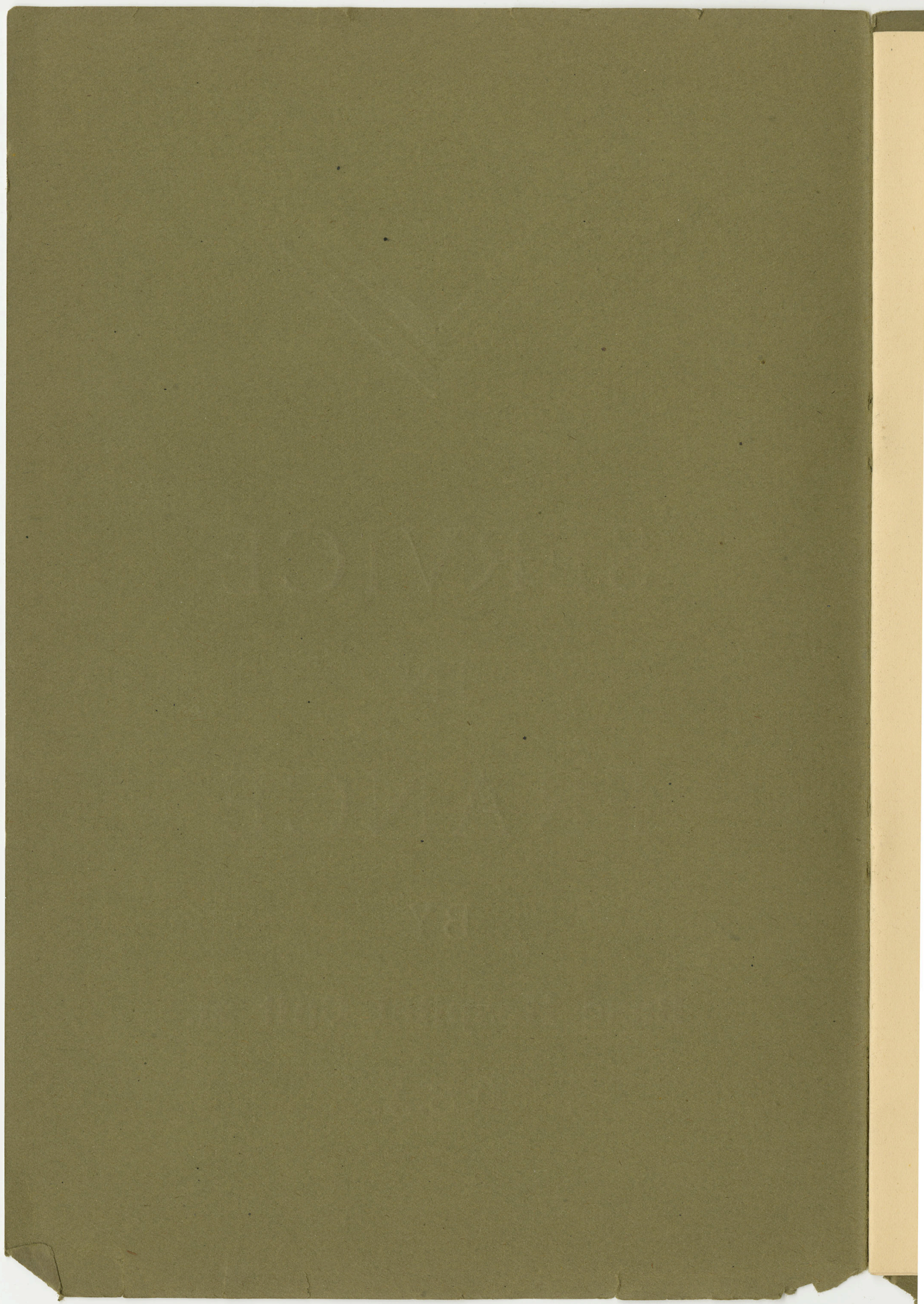


SERVICE
IN
FRANCE

BY

Base Hospital Unit 21.

U.S.A.



SERVICE IN FRANCE

BY BASE HOSPITAL UNIT 21.

On Wednesday, May 16th, 1917, American Red Cross Hospital Unit No. 21 was called into active service of the United States Army, and for the first time anywhere and the last time in St. Louis, assembled at Christ Church Cathedral to hear the Benediction pronounced by its Chaplain, Dean Davis.

From that hour the Unit ceased to be a potentiality and became an active factor in the services of the country. At the request of the British and French governments to the United States for medical aid, the Unit was called into active service under the command of Lt. Col. J. D. Fife and was ordered to France. The following day the Unit left St. Louis and three days later Saturday, May 19th, sailed from New York on the steamer St. Paul. Landing in Liverpool May 28th, the Unit was broken up and spent two weeks in England training and awaiting orders. This stage of the journey was completed and on June 10th the Unit landed in France, proceeding to Rouen, its final destination June 12th, when British General Hospital No. 12 was taken over at once.

During the period of adjustment to the service Lt. Col. Jamieson, R.A.M.C., remained officially as the Commanding officer, this authority reverting back on July 10th to Lt. Col. Fife as the real American Commanding Officer. The Unit has remained always at its original station and has continued its work though the personnel has changed materially. Col. Fife was called to the American Expeditionary Force on October 18th, 1917, the command passing to Major Murphy, who held it until he, too, was called away on May 15th.

On November 16th, 1917, additional officers, nurses and men from St. Louis joined the Unit in anticipation of the changes in the Unit. These changes have consisted in officers, nurses and men being called to other duties in France or at home as a result of the fitness acquired through service with the Unit. Miss Stimson, Chief Nurse, has also been recalled to the American Expeditionary Force for a larger field of duty. One man has been lost to the Unit, Sgt. Evatt, who died after an acute illness.

At the close of the first year in actual service, the Unit can look back with gratification to two features, that it was among the first groups of American soldiers to reach France after the declaration of war, and that it has had a full year of uninterrupted service.

CALENDAR

- May 16. 1917.... Unit called into active service.
» 17. 1917.... Left St. Louis.
» 19. 1917.... Sailed from New York on S. S.
St Paul.
» 27. 1917.... Safe in Liverpool harbor.
» 28 1917.... Landed at Liverpool.
» 28 to June 8. Men and six officers "trained" at
Blackpool.
» 29 to » 9. Nurses and officers enjoyed London.
June 9. 1917.. .. Sailed from Southampton.
» 10. 1917.... Landed at Le Havre.
Nurses proceeded at once to Rouen.
» 12. 1917.... Entire unit reached Rouen.
July 10. 1917.. .. Lt. Col. Fife - C.O. of No. 12 (St.
Louis U.S.A.) General Hospital.
Oct. 18. 1917 Major Murphy took command.
Nov. 15. 1917.... Captain Thomas arrived with our
reinforcements.
Apr. 2. 1918..... Unit D reinforcements arrived.
May 15. 1918.... Major Murphy left.
Major Veeder in command.
June 12. 1918.... Celebration of one year's service in
France.
-

MUSTER ROLL OF BASE HOSPITAL UNIT 21, U.S.A.

OFFICERS.

Med. Corps.
Lt. Colonel.
 James D. Fife.
Med. Res. Corps.
Major.
 Fred T. Murphy.
Med. Corps.
Major.
 Thomas C. Austin.
Med. Res. Corps.
Majors.
 Malvern B. Clopton.
 Walter Fischel.
 Nathaniel Allison.
 Borden S. Veeder.
 Eugene L. Opie.
Q.M.C.N.A.
Major.
 Gus S. Kopple.
Med. Res. Corps.
Captains.
 Sidney I. Schwab.
 Lawrence T. Post.
 Charles H. Eyerman.
 Hugh McCulloch.
 Warren R. Rainey.
 Walter S. Thomas.
 Raymond M. Spivy.
 Alan M. Chesney.
 Edwin C. Ernst.
 Henry McC. Young.
Q.M.U.S.R.
Captain.
 Carl D. Ford.
Med. Corps.
1st Lieuts.
 Philip P. Green.
 Meredith R. Johnston.
Med. Res. Corps.
1st Lieuts.
 Frederick B. Abbott.
 Roland F. Fisher.
 Arthur W. Proetz.
 Allan A. Gilbert.
 Joseph W. Larimore.
 Howard H. Bell.
 Levi H. Fuson.
 Fred J. Brockman.
 James A. Brown.
San. Corps, N.A.
1st Lieut.
 Thomas G. Hester.
Med. Res. Corps.
1st Lieuts.
 Edwin P. Lehman.
 Carl W. Eberbach.
 Joseph E. Stewart.
 William H. Olmsted.
 Walter W. Horst.
 Theron H. Slaughter.

Bert C. Ball.
 Lee P. Gay.
 Martin J. Fardy.
 Fremont Lucking.
 Joseph W. McKee, Jr.
 W. Leland Mitchell.
 Hugo Muench, Jr.
 Thomas B. Noble.
 Charles D. O' Keefe.
 Earl C. Padgett.
 George M. Polk.
Chaplain N.A. at large.
1st Lieut.
 Elkan C. Voorsanger.
Q.M. Corps.
2nd Lieut.
 Robert H. Moran.
American Red Cross.
Chaplains.
 Carroll M. Davis.
 George F. Taylor.
Army Nurse Corps.
Chief Nurses.
 Julia C. Stimson.
 Mance Taylor.
Reserve Nurses.
 Mae Auerbach.
 Lulu G. Bender.
 Byrd G. Boehringer.
 Nellie O. Boothby.
 Harriet L. Carfrae.
 Estelle D. Claiborne.
 Flora M. Cleland.
 Ruth B. Cobb.
 Jessie H. Collins.
 Esther A. Cousley.
 Constance A. Cuppaidge.
 Frieda M. Damm.
 Edith L. Dangerfield.
 Margaret W. Davison.
 Anna M. Deuser.
 Louise C. Dierson.
 Joyce Victoria Ely.
 Lena Fabick.
 Geneva Farmer.
 May D. File.
 Hazel A. Flint.
 Olve Hardy George.
 Emma E. Habenicht.
 Saidee N. Hausmann.
 Nellie H. Heinzelman.
 Mary Ellen Hill.
 Louise C. Hilligass.
 Eunice Holmes.
 Ruby E. Idle.
 Louise Martha Jark.
 Marie S. Kammeyer.
 Florence E. Kiefer.
 Louise Kieninger.
 Flora Kober.
 Olga A. Krieger.
 Nelle Kuhn.

Bertha Love.
 Anne R. McColloch.
 Ruth Morton.
 Anastatia Mosier.
 Katherine L. Murphy.
 Myrtle J. Nash.
 Jeannette Parish.
 Cordelia Ranz.
 Ola Mae Reed.
 Laura E. Rider.
 Florence B. Russell.
 Martha A. Sander.
 Dolly Belle Schmitt.
 Minnie Scott.
 Olive E. Serafini.
 Nina I. Shelton.
 Ethyl M. Smiley.
 Mary E. Stebbins.
 Mary E. Stephenson.
 Hattie M. Swift.
 Genevieve C. Tetrault.
 Ruth Page Vornbrock.
 Mary E. Weise.
 Anna K. Westman.
 Olive E. Wilcox.
 Rachel A. Watkins.
 Edna E. Alley.
 Emma C. Ammon.
 Frances M. Ashford.
 Elsie M. Aspelmier.
 Helene M. Baker.
 Estelle Y. Burch.
 Anne L. Carson.
 Bella McNeill Carson.
 Mary E. Coleman.
 Margaret B. Conochie.
 Ella V. Estes.
 Edith M. Ferguson.
 Marie A. Franklin.
 Mary E. Gardner.
 Mabel Gray.
 Marie E. Hardie.
 Ruth E. Hamill.
 Mary O. Hutchinson.
 Bessie F. Hopkins.
 Byrde E. Keith.
 May Kelley.
 Julia C. MacCorkle.
 Leona B. Manion.
 Bertha F. Martin.
 Harlan Marshall.
 Mary M. McCrie.
 Olive A. Meyer.
 Margaret B. Otis.
 Margaret Walker Polloch.
 Mary E. Rynders.
 Frances Shouse.
 Kathryn I. Slaten.
 Bettá L. Snyder.
 Loretta Sumrow.
 Bruce Venable.
 Martha E. Zimmerman.

ENLISTED MEN.

Med. Dept., USA.

Hospital Sergeant.

David Perkins.

Sergeants, 1st Cl.

Ralph P. Dolby.

Rogger J. Puckett.

Walter G. Allen.

Sergeant.

Allen Hull.

Med. Dept., NA

Sergeants, 1st Cl.

George L. Delany.

Marvin C. Hamilton.

Charles E. Duffy.

Percy H. Byrns.

Arthur E. Schanuel.

Sergeants.

George W. Freiberg.

George H. Bisplinghoff.

Carl P. Miller.

Humphrey L. Evatt.

Frank L. Capps.

Charles H. Jablonsky.

Clayton A. Hightower.

Philip A. Conrath.

Joseph C. Welsh.

William W. Wright.

Clifford J. Bindner.

Irvin Eaton.

Thomas C. Dunville.

James B. Costen.

Sylvester C. Horn.

Clinton S. Tobias.

Roberts P. Hecker.

William B. Rogers.

Corporals.

Charles W. Collier.

Zephirin J. Guilbeault.

Rexford T. Hasgall.

Harold T. Jolley.

Frank W. Knecht.

Herbert A. Alvis.

Joseph W. Severy.

Henry T. Simpson.

Arshav K. Nushan.

Elmer O. Bammann.

Clarence W. Schlueter.

Benjamin P. Benson.

Cooks.

Haralambas S. Bellios.

Alfred E. Blencowe.

Harry Brown.

J. Frank Carr, Jr.

Charles W. Koch.

Robert P. Ricks.

Alphonse P. Rieser.

Charles E. St. Clair.

William F. Schmidt.

James B. Simpson.

Herschel Y. Storment.

Theodore Theodoraras.

Privates 1st Cl.

John G. Anderson.

Horace C. Barker.

James C. Barnard.

Hugh J. Bisplinghoff.

Oenn D. Brasel.

David W. Brock.

Edwin F. Dakin.

Jones S. Davis.

George V. Dillman.

James R. Drummond.

John F. Dunasky.

Charles J. Fox.

John C. Graham.

Edgar Hanvey.

Howard P. Harding.

Werner C. Hencke.

John V. Hettich.

John S. Higgins.

Walter F. Hoban.

Justin J. Jackson.

Charles D. Jarrett.

Fred C. John.

Alonzo T. Kelly.

Gordon Kimbrel.

Richard F. Knox.

Clarence W. Koch.

Jesse M. Lasater.

Thomas M. Lodge.

Shepherd J. Magidson.

Lewis C. Martin.

Ernest J. Massard, Jr.

Edwin D. McCuddy.

Timothy McGrath.

Ernest H. McIlvaine.

Dell E. McKinney.

Arthur E. Melville.

Alvin Mercer.

Joseph N. Meyer.

David L. Millar.

Everett B. Mullins.

Thomas F. O'Hanlon.

Ross E. Parsons.

Frank H. Pitt.

William H. Pleuger.

Harold E. Pope.

Harold J. Purcell.

Walter S. Reeves.

William Reeves.

Paul L. Reinholz.

Robert J.B. Richner.

Thomas Riste.

John A. Robinson.

Andrew M. Shea.

Edward B. Shea.

Thomas L. Sheedy.

Julius V. Silberberg.

Claire B. Smith.

Hoyle H. Smith.

William C. Stack.

Wrennie W. Steele.

Lewis C. Taylor.

Glenn W. Teel.

Calvin G. Tilton.

James B. Townsend.

Omar Warren.

Paul K. Webb.

William I. White.

Stephen H. Williams.

William P. Gasser.

Robert E. Moore.

Sanford Withers.

Francis P. Kendall.

William E. Engel.

Frederick E. Wendelburg.

Bernard L. Cottam.

Owen H. Meffert.

Elmer F. Bowman.

Walter T. Brown.

Harry O. Ezell.

Michael L. Ganey.

Noah W. Hunt.

Earl H. Hursey.

Gerald D. Joyce.

Edwin S. Kohn.

Oliver W. Lohr.

Floyd H. Mc Kinney.

Seldon H. Murray.

John M. Nowell.

Louis A. Robertson.

Richard J. Sabath.

John C. Sullivan.

Elmer L. Wright.

John W. H. Sasse

Privates.

John S. Allen.

Jay V. Bromeling.

Holland F. Chalfant.

Robert H. Clausius.

Edward J. Coogan.

Paul E. Corrubia.

Melvin L. Croissant.

Frank M. Depke.

Paul Graham.

George W. Kolk.

Horace Neely.

George Quick.

Irl Trickey.

Charles E. Wallis.

Willard G. Mc Quoid.

Forney F. Dixon.

Howard W. Dunham.

Harry L. Fleming, Jr.

George W. Freiburger.

Walter E. Gantner.

Lewis Garner.

Arthur L. Heidbrader.

Thomas R. Hunt.

Duane D. Hutchinson.

Joe A. Lennon.

Louis Mc Mahon.

Edward T. Nesselhauf.

Robert E. Noeninger.

James O. Sallee.

Fred J. Stroback.

Charles P. Thomas.

Norman T. Thurman.

Elmer Williams.

Ritchey P. Williams.

Edward D. Wills.

Edward J. Winer.

William E. Smith.

Charles E. Johns.

TRANSFERRED FROM UNIT.

OFFICERS.

Med. Corps.

Lieut.-Col.

James D. Fife.

Major.

Thomas C. Austin.

1st Lieut.

Philip P. Green.

Med. Res. Corps.

Majors.

Fred T. Murphy.

Nathaniel Allison.
Eugene L. Opie.
Captains
Sidney I. Schwab.
Alan M. Chesney.
Henry Mc C. Young.
1st Lieut.
Theron H. Slaughter.
Q.M.C.N.A.
Major.
Gus S. Kopple.
2nd Lieut.
Robert H. Moran.
Chaplain, N.A.
1st Lieut.
Elkan C. Voorsanger.
Am. Red. Cross.
Chaplain.
Carroll M. Davis.

TRANSFERRED

Army Nurse Corps.
Chief Nurse.
Julia C. Stimson.
Reserve Nurse.
Lulu G. Bender.
Geneva Farmer.
Ruth E. Hamill
Mary O. Hutchinson.

TRANSFERRED TO OTHER
COMMANDS.

ENLISTED MEN.

Med. Dept., U.S.A.
Sergeant, 1st Cl.
Walter G. Allen.
Sergeant.
Allen Hull.
Med. Dept., N.A.
Hospital Sergeant.
Francis P. Kendall.
Sergeant, 1st Cl.
William E. Engel.
Frederick E. Wendelburg.
Sergeant.

Bernard L. Cottam.
Private, 1st Cl.
Owen H. Meffert.

TRANSFERRED SICK TO
OTHER HOSPITALS.

Med. Dept., N.A.
Sergeant.
Carl P. Miller.
Corporal.
Herbert A. Alvis.
Private, 1st Cl.
William P. Gasser.
Robert E. Moore.
Sanford Withers.
John W.H. Sasse.
Private.
Willard G. Mc Quoid.
William E. Smith.
Charles E. Johns.

DIED.

Med. Dept., N.A.
Sergeant.
Humphrey L. Evatt.

UNIT "D"
ATTACHED TO BASE
HOSPITAL UNIT 21.

Army Nurse Corps.
Reserve Nurses.
Ethel Allman
Bess L. Broadley.
Sue Imogen Broadley.
Martha J. Beers.
Mary J. Conner.
Mina B. Dunlap
Catherine Ritta Harty.
Mary Romana Hoosan.
Zilpha L. Larimore.
Florence Eyre Pierce.
Elizabeth B. Shiple.
Elizabeth C. Sharkey.
Anna Stucky.
Pearle A. Trice.
Mabel F. Peters.

ENLISTED MEN.

Med. Dept., N.A.
Sergeant, 1st Cl.
Zachary A. Wilhoite.
Sergeant.
Sherley C. Kriel.
Corporal's.
Ad R. Thomas.
Maurice A. Doody.
Cook.
Walter Kapfhammer.
Privates, 1st Cl.
William L. Byrd.
John C. Harlammert.
Dewey Kimbel.
Frank Sonner.
Otis C. Thomas.
Albert B. Weaver.
Belwood O. Wiggington.
Privates.
Gray M. Blanchard.
Oliver Hurry.
John H. Dadisman.
Arthur C. Desenroth.
Louis Doerr.
James D. Ford.
Allston V. Fuller.
Charles W. Flitner.
Palmer G. Knipp.
Fox P. Kemp
Frank R. Klumb.
Michael J. Krupp.
Sherley Mc Goff
Charles A. Radford.
Robert O. Roby.
August D. Roeder.
Martin L. Schuster.
John W. Schmidt.
Albert Segal.
William Stancell.
Daniel A. Taylor.
Thomas A. Van Meter.
Bernard H. Voor.
Herman B. Voor.
Howell D. Wymond.
Joseph A. Young.
Fred W. Yuhr.

AT THE END OF A YEAR AS ARMY NURSE.

BY NINA I. SHELTON.

Isn't it a blessing that we cannot see into the future? Would we, I wonder, have sailed away so eagerly if we had known that chilblains lurked in sunny France, and air-raids made night hideous? Now we are here, and if the opportunity were offered us tomorrow to return, the entire Unit would unite in singing "We won't come home till it's over over there".

Custom cannot stale the infinite variety of this life. The patients are ever changing. Game chaps they are, who grouse cheerfully about army life, and bravely meet its tragedies. The patient endurance of the badly wounded is remarkable. A missing arm or leg is no tragedy to them. In the presence of such fortitude, how can we complain?

There are drawbacks here, certainly. We actually dream of chilled grape fruit and hot biscuit. We all have a fellow feeling for our long suffering sister who left her beds unmade one morning till the day's issue of laundry should be forthcoming, only to find, when it did come, that no sheets were available that day. She gazed in dismay at the meagre supply of linen, then at the tumbled beds, and exclaimed in exasperation, "They had no business to start this war if they didn't have sheets enough to see it through!" The boys are so glad to have a real bed after the dirt and discomfort of the trenches that clean or soiled linen is a matter of small importance.

Sitting on a stranded tram one day, I watched a troop of soldiers going up the line. Bearing their heavy packs, they trudged steadily along to the music of the fife and drum, whistling and singing and calling gaily to each other. Not even when they had to form twos to make way in the narrow street for ambulances and lorries bringing in the sick and wounded from the very battle front to which they were going, did their spirits flag. Verily this is a place of laughter and of tears.

Even night duty, that unnatural existence which every nurse abhors, is glorified here. The great grey tents, crouching in long lines; the searchlights piercing the darkness, and searching the heavens for hostile air craft; the grotesque shadows cast upon the ground as a nurse or wardmaster goes from tent to tent with a lantern swinging from one hand; the gaiety of the midnight lunch; the questioning eyes of some mother's boy who asks hopefully, "Don't you think I'm better, sister?" In a few hours he will, indeed, be better.

Standing alone at night under the open sky, one feels in tune with the Infinite.

Oh! Thou who has created all this quiet splendor
Of soft moonlight and silence and the night bird's call,
Bend low thine ear, for I would thank Thee for it,
But lack the speech withal
Out here, surrounded by Thy gracious Presence,
Alone with Thee, the Maker of this perfect night,
How far away seems war, with all its horrors!

OUR FIRST YEAR IN FRANCE THE ENLISTED MEN

BY PVT. 1st CLASS J. N. MEYER.

Will the enlisted men of Base Hospital 21 ever forget those memorable hours spent waiting, waiting in the corridors of Barnes Hospital, when each man said in hushed tones to his neighbor, "Gee, I hope I get in on this", when each man was sizing up the rest of the crowd and speculating as to what kind of fellows they might be? How often have the sensations of those hours been looked back upon, discussed, laughed at and how often has the blissful ignorance that permeated them been deplored! And that gorgeous Pullman and Fred Harvey service trip to New York — our last and best impression of the land of all good things! Can anyone forget that; especially in the light of the wonderful and odorous curry-and-rice reception that awaited us on the historic liner St. Paul?

Oh! the eyesight for submarines and the propensity for foraging that we developed during that eight-day voyage.

Then Blackpool — Ah! Blackpool, what delightful days awaited us there. Ten days of sunshine and sea-breeze, of a little drill and a lot of baseball. How friendly the girls were; and how like wonderful curiosities were we regarded by an enthusiastic populace. And the sad farewells — Ah! draw the curtain there!

France at last. War torn France! War torn, indeed, but fair and smiling where we landed. Settled now and with no more journeys by boat or train to face we had a chance to get acquainted, with one and another, with the British Tommy, with the French people, with the French language, with the town of Rouen, and last but not least with hospital work. Of this last let us not speak. Let us be silent about disappointment and disillusion, about vain regrets and frantic efforts to transfer, about convoys, stretcher bearing and — other things. Let us remember rather how we delighted in exploring dear, quaint, picturesque old Rouen, and the surrounding villages; how we discovered places of interest, historic and — otherwise. Let us drink a toast to the beauty and vivacity of the French Mademoiselles and look back upon the past year — our year in France, as a year not entirely devoid of joy nor without compensations to make up for stretcher-bearing and — other things.

M. O. R. C.'s IN ACTIVE SERVICE.

On the sixteenth of May, 1917, some twenty odd doctors of the Washington University Medical School were called into active service as Medical Officers in the United States Army.

Individually and collectively these "Officers" knew as much about the army as a Filipino baby knows about the price of beer in Salem, Illinois.

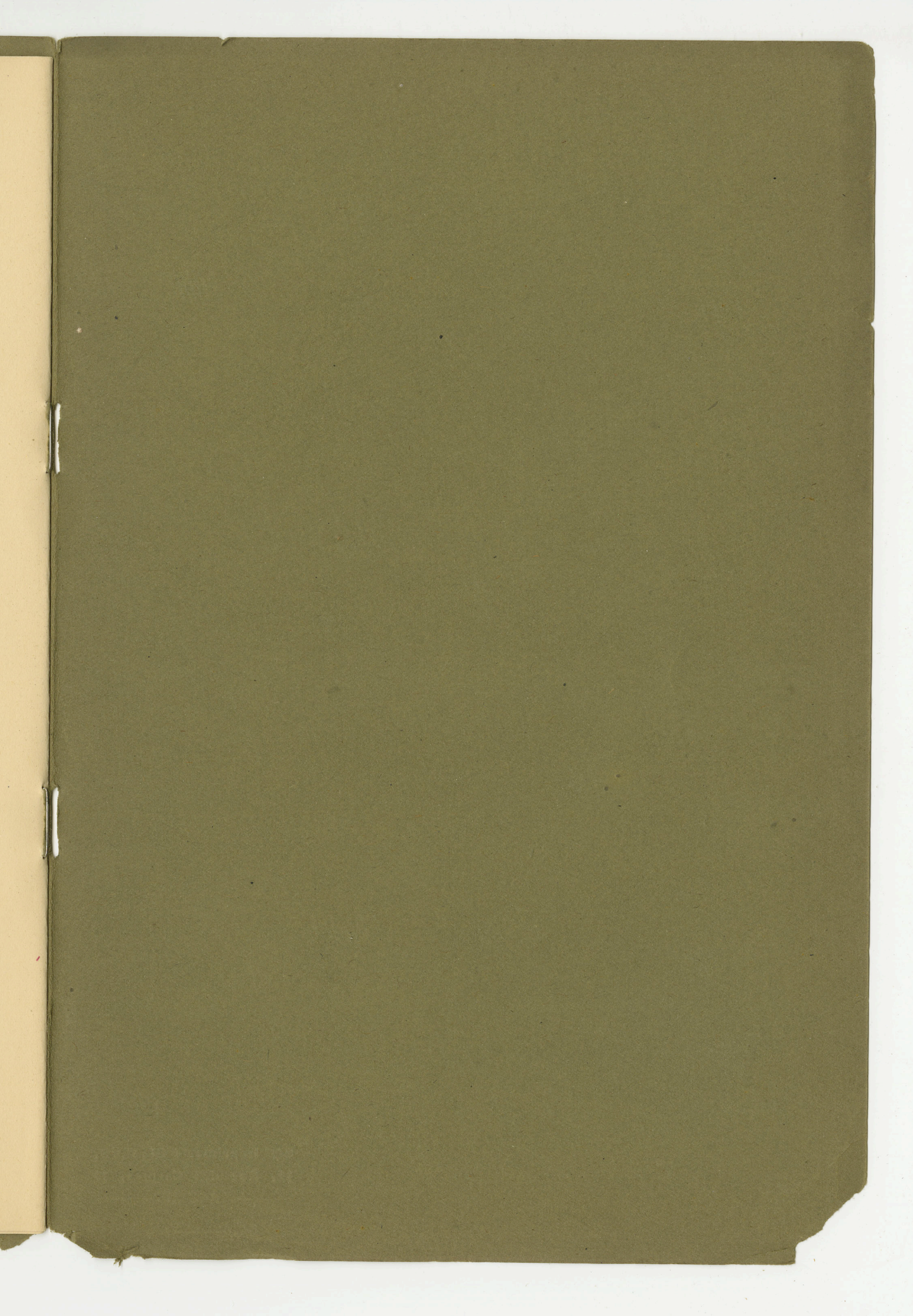
On the twelfth of June, 1917, this same group of Officers with their company of rookies arrived at Rouen, France, and began to run a British Military Hospital. On June twelfth, 1918, the same group with some additions and subtractions but no multiplications or divisions is still running British General Hospital Number Twelve.

If the group has made good, its success may be attributed largely to three men. Lt. Col. James D. Fife took the original command of this company of beginners and by precept and example taught them all they know of military proceedings. They were not raised to be soldiers but he made them at least fairly good imitations. By his tact and never failing cheerfulness he overcame their western aversion to recognize authority. By his firm but friendly statements he impressed on them the necessity of discipline. To them he was instructor, friend and playfellow. When he left, his mark was on them.

To Lt. Col. Jamieson, R. A. M. C. was assigned the difficult task of assimilating this Unit into the organization of the British Medical Service. He proved a splendid preceptor. Not only did he speedily teach them the laws of the Medes and Persians as applied to A.F.W. No. 3443 and all the other A.F.W.s, but also he introduced them to the best traditions of the Royal Army Medical Service.

Major Fred T. Murphy commanded the Unit from October, 1917 until shortly before the completion of the year that this booklet commemorates. Whereas the chief elements of our development that we owe to his predecessors are those of the military point of view, military forms, military loyalty, to him we owe a more subtle thing, the existence of our esprit de corps. And this may be conceived as a determination to perform the daily task, whatever it may be, with an ever-active sense of double loyalty — to the principles for which our uniform stands and to the science to which our lives are dedicated — in his own words, to "play the game".

And now we face the future, strong against what it may bring. Dates mean little to us. Time has ceased to have value. We are here to stick it out to the end, confident that that end will not be bitter. And the sources of our strength include not only the holy cause for which we are engaged, and the constructive beneficial part we play, but also our unity. For Unit 21 is not merely our official name. We are unified in the truest meaning of the term by a background of common purpose honestly faced. We have achieved in a short year, tradition, a tradition that will carry us on and that we must keep bright, a tradition that the lowest of us may claim a share in, and that sheds lustre upon the highest. Upon no one does it shed more shining lustre than upon the man whose leadership and example, during the largest part of this first difficult year have inspired in us the need for the tradition we have developed and have made of us a "Unit".



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— ROUEN —